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Examiner: Theresa T. Snider
Group Art Unit: 1744

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A vacuum cleaner comprising;
a housing defining an agitation cavity and a suction nozzle ;
a suction source in fluid communication with the suction nozzle;
an agitation brush mounted in the agitation cavity for rotation about a brush axis ;
an agitation brush drive connected to the agitation brush for rotating the agitation brush about the brush axis;
the improvement comprising,
at least one cutting blade positioned adjacent a portion of the agitation brush drive to prevent buildup of elongate particles on the portion of the agitation brush drive.
2. (Currently amended)-A- The vacuum cleaner according to claim 1 wherein the agitation brush drive comprises an electric motor with an output shaft connected to the agitation brush and the cutting blade is mounted adjacent to the motor output shaft.
3. (Currently amended)-A- The vacuum cleaner according to claim 2 wherein the motor output shaft includes a spindle and the cutting blade is mounted adjacent to the spindle.
4. (Currently amended)-A- The vacuum cleaner according to claim 3 wherein agitation brush drive further comprises a belt between the spindle and the agitation brush.
5. (Currently amended)-A- The vacuum cleaner according to claim 2 wherein agitation brush drive further comprises a belt between the motor drive shaft and the agitation brush.
6. (Currently amended)-A- The vacuum cleaner according to claim 5 and further comprising at least one additional cutting blade mounted to the housing adjacent the agitator brush.
7. (Currently amended)-A- The vacuum cleaner according to claim 5 ~~and further comprising a cutting blade~~ wherein the at least two cutting blades are mounted to the housing adjacent to each end of the agitator brush.
8. (Currently amended)-A- The vacuum cleaner according to claim 1 ~~wherein the vacuum~~

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cleaner is an upright vacuum cleaner and further comprising a handle assembly pivotally attached to the housing.

9. (Currently amended)-A- The vacuum cleaner according to claim 1 wherein the vacuum cleaner is a canister vacuum cleaner and further comprising a canister mounting the suction source, and a flexible hose fluidly connecting the suction source to the suction nozzle.

10. (Currently amended)-A- The vacuum cleaner according to claim 1 wherein the vacuum cleaner is a portable hand held vacuum cleaner the housing mounts the suction nozzle, the suction source, the agitation brush, the agitation brush drive, and the at least one cutting blade.

11. (Currently amended)-A- The vacuum cleaner according to claim 1 wherein the vacuum cleaner is a deep cleaner and further comprising a handle assembly pivotally attached to the housing, wherein the suction nozzle, the suction source, the agitation brush, the agitation brush drive, and the at least one cutting blade are all mounted to the housing, and a liquid delivery and extraction system is mounted at least in part to the housing for discharging liquid onto and removing liquid from a surface to be cleaned.

12. (Previously Presented) A vacuum cleaner comprising;
a housing defining an agitation cavity and a suction nozzle ;
a suction source in fluid communication with the suction nozzle;
an agitation brush mounted in the agitation cavity for rotation about a brush axis ;
an agitation brush drive connected to the agitation brush for rotating the agitation brush about the brush axis;
the improvement comprising,

at least one cutting blade mounted to the housing adjacent a portion of the agitator brush to prevent buildup of elongated particles on the portion of the agitation brush.

13. (Currently amended)-A- The vacuum cleaner according to claim 12 wherein the portion of the agitator brush is adjacent an end of the agitator brush.

14. (Currently amended)-A- The vacuum cleaner according to claim 13 and further comprising a at least one additional cutting blade wherein the at least two cutting blades are mounted to the housing adjacent to each end of the agitator brush.

15. (Currently amended)-A- The vacuum cleaner according to claim 12 wherein the vacuum cleaner is an upright vacuum cleaner and further comprising a handle assembly pivotally attached

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to the housing.

16. (Currently amended)-A- The vacuum cleaner according to claim 12 and further comprising a canister mounting the suction source, and a flexible hose fluidly connecting the suction source to the suction nozzle~~wherein the vacuum cleaner is a canister vacuum cleaner.~~

17. (Currently amended)-A- The vacuum cleaner according to claim 12 wherein the housing mounts the suction nozzle, the suction source, the agitation brush, the agitation brush drive, and the at least one cutting blade~~the vacuum cleaner is a portable hand held vacuum cleaner.~~

18. (Currently amended)-A- The vacuum cleaner according to claim 12 and further comprising a handle assembly pivotally attached to the housing, wherein the suction nozzle, the suction source, the agitation brush, the agitation brush drive, and the at least one cutting blade are all mounted to the housing, and a liquid delivery and extraction system is mounted at least in part to the housing for discharging liquid onto and removing liquid from a surface to be cleaned~~wherein the vacuum cleaner is a deep cleaner.~~